

The Four Mothers Of Forever

The Four Mothers of Forever
earth-brown
quiet as stone
sit timeless

 in luminous night
their smiling mouths
 are red grapes

bursting with silence
their eyes are not revealed
I tremble at their monstrous beauty
and dare not ask

 what they hold on their knees

I cover my eyes
against the Four Mothers of Forever
with their red smiling mouths

 that never speak
although I wanted them to smile
heart-stricken

 I cover my eyes
because they do not weep

--Hester G. Storm

San Francisco, Calif.